

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02

TRSE-00 MC-02 PRS-01 L-03 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 191220Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9152

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 19641

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, TH

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND REGIONAL SECURITY

REF: A) MANILA 13736 B) STATE 244895

1. WE AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL SECURITY FACTORS IN GUIDING OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PLANNING FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA AND NOTE THAT WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL YEARS HAS RECOGNIZED THIS FACTOR IN ITS LONG-RANGE PLANNING PAPERS (E.G. THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING GUIDANCE AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES MEMORANDA FOR 1974-78 AND 1975-79).

2. THAILAND IS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY (GENERALLY WITHOUT CONSULTING US ADVISERS) TOWARD DEVELOPING SOME REGIONAL TIES (MUNITIONS PURCHASES FROM AND PROVIDING TRAINING FACILITIES FOR SINGAPORE) AND THE RTAF WITH US ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDING TRAINING FOR KHMER ARMED FORCES.

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3. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD DISCREETLY ENCOURAGE SUCH COOPERATION BY THAILAND AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. SUBJECT SHOULD NOT BE MATTER FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY US OFFICIALS, CONSIDERING DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRODUCTION AND SERVICE FACILITIES WHICH MIGHT LIMIT FUTURE SALES OF MATERIAL AND SERVICES BY US FIRMS.

4. YOUR REFERENCE TO CINCPAC MAP CONFERENCE RECALLS THAT REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION FIGURED IN CORRIDOR TALKS ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT ADDRESSED IN FORMAL SESSIONS (WHICH DEALT PRIMARILY WITH COUNTRY PROGRAMS). ABSENCE OF CINCPAC AND SOME OF HIS KEY STAFF FROM HAWAII DURING CONFERENCE PERIOD EVIDENTLY LIMITED OPPORTUNITY FOR WIDER-RANGE POLICY DISCUSSIONS IN CONTEXT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROJECTION FOR THE '70'S.

5. WE BELIEVE THERE ARE TWO AREAS IN WHICH US ACTION COULD GIVE NEEDED BOOST TO OBJECTIVE OF GREATER REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MILITARY MATTERS. FIRST, WE SHOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORT TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY OF DEFENSE MATERIAL AMONG MAP RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. INITIAL STEP MIGHT BE SUBREGIONAL MEETING OF MAAG AND POMIL OFFICERS TO STUDY WAYS MAP COULD BE USED MORE EFFECTIVELY TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. SECONDLY, WE SHOULD USE MAP AND US COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE INTERDEPENDENCE RATHER THAN DUPLICATION IN THOSE PRODUCTION AND MILITARY REPAIR FACILITIES IN WHICH THIS IS POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, RIGHT NOW WE COULD ENCOURAGE MULTI-NATIONAL USE OF VEHICLE REBUILD FACILITIES AND AIRCRAFT DEPOT LEVEL MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. PERHAPS THERE ARE OTHER AREAS IN WHICH THIS CONCEPT COULD BE APPLIED.

KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO19641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731217/aaaaamcn.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MANILA 13736 B) STATE 244895
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <21-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND REGIONAL SECURITY
TAGS: PINS, MASS, TH, US
To: STATE MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005